

by being assigned the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management accounts, where he probably will spend as much time on policy issues as on more traditional appropriations matters. Of the half dozen or so amendments that have been debated and voted upon during consideration of this bill, I think all but one have been related to Leif's area of responsibility. He has acquitted himself very well, and has proven to be a quick study. We are glad to have him with us.

Joe Norrell is also new to our subcommittee this year. Joe performs duties for both the Interior subcommittee and the VA/HUD subcommittee chaired by Senator BOND, and as such is frequently pulled in two different directions by two different masters. He has handled this difficult challenge with commitment and good humor, and has been a great help to both subcommittees.

Finally, I would also like to thank Kari Vander Stoep of my personal staff for her work on the issues in this bill that are of particular importance to the people of Washington state. Kari has done a wonderful job in this regard since her predecessor, Chuck Berwick, departed for business school.

Each of these individuals has already spent many late nights working on this bill, and will likely spend many more such nights over the coming weeks as we move to conference with the House. I want to express my own gratitude for their good work, and also convey the appreciation of the Ranking Member, Senator BYRD, and that of the Senate as a whole.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2684

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the following amendments be the only first-degree amendments in order to the HUD-VA appropriations bill and they be subject to relevant second-degree amendments. I further ask consent that Senator WELLSTONE be recognized this evening to offer his amendment. I thank him for being willing to stay here to offer his amendment. We need more Senators willing to stay to get the job done. He will offer a sense of the Senate on atomic veterans. That amendment will be debated tonight. I further ask consent no amendment be in order to the Wellstone amendment prior to the vote, and I ask consent that the vote occur at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, with 2 minutes for debate for closing remarks prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. As a result of this agreement, there will be no further votes this evening. The first vote tomorrow will be at approximately 9:35 a.m. It is anticipated further votes will occur tomorrow in an effort to conclude HUD-

VA. I talked with Senator DASCHLE. We should and we will finish the HUD-VA appropriations bill tomorrow. We have good managers on this bill. They will push it forward.

The only amendments that we had on the list are the atomic veterans sense of the Senate by Senator WELLSTONE, sense of the Senate regarding education by Senator DASCHLE, an amendment by Senator KERRY regarding section 8 housing, another amendment by Senator KERRY regarding housing aids, one regarding NASA by Senator ROBB, one by Senator TORRICELLI regarding aircraft noise, a managers' package by Senator BOND, one by Senators BENNETT and DODD regarding Y2K, and relevant by Senators BOND and MIKULSKI.

RULE XXII

Mr. LOTT. One final thing, and then the managers can go forward. It is my understanding some of the debate today was not germane to the issue on oil royalties, the issue on which 60 Members voted to invoke cloture earlier today.

Rule XXII clearly states all debate must be germane. Senators THOMAS and Senator HUTCHISON of Texas raised a point of order to guide the debate back to the pending oil royalties subject. The Chair on first blush ruled the debate does not have to be germane.

To better clarify the position of the chairman, I now make a parliamentary inquiry. Is there a requirement under rule XXII that all debate postcloture must be germane to the issue on which cloture was invoked?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. All debate postcloture must be germane to the issue on which cloture was invoked.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if a Senator speaks on a subject that is non-germane to the pending issue, is it in order for any Member to raise a point of order against the debate in question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is in order for any Member to raise a point of order relative to the debate. When such a point of order is raised, the Chair will decide if the debate in question is germane or non-germane. If the debate is determined to be germane, the debate in question will resume. If the debate is determined to be non-germane, the Senator will be warned to keep his remarks germane to the pending question. If the Senator continues to speak on a non-germane basis and any Senator raises a point of order against the debate content, the Chair would restate the rule on which the violation is occurring and the Senator in question would immediately lose the floor.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair for that clarification. I therefore withdraw a pending appeal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The appeal is withdrawn.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I just want to make one clarification concerning the colloquy between the majority leader and the Chair. I have no disagreement with the statements of the Chair concerning the Senate rule on germaneness during the post-cloture debate. However, the majority leader prefaced his inquiry with the statement that it was his understanding that some debate on the oil royalties amendment was not germane. I want to make clear that there was never a ruling that any particular statement made during the debate by any Senator was not germane. I am confident that my remarks during this debate were germane to the issue at hand and I do not interpret the Chair's statement in this colloquy to have suggested or ruled otherwise.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, may I ask the majority leader, was that a unanimous consent order that the only amendments in order are the ones that were read off?

Mr. LOTT. That is correct. It did say, of course, relevant second-degree amendments would be in order. I believe we only have a half dozen or so amendments we have to consider. I hope most of them can be handled without recorded votes. It does appear there would be a necessity for as many as two recorded votes, maybe three, tomorrow. If the Senators cooperate, I think we can be through with this bill and all amendments before noon tomorrow.

Mr. BOND. I thank the majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 1789

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate that lung cancer, colon cancer, and brain and central nervous system cancer should be presumed to be service-connected disabilities as radiogenic diseases)

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE] proposes an amendment numbered 1789.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.